

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 with the following:

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating how a manufacturer and supplier register in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a suitable computing system environment 100 on which the invention may be implemented. The computing system environment 100 is only one example of a suitable computing environment and is not intended to suggest any limitation as to the scope of use or functionality of the invention. Neither should the computing environment 100 be interpreted as having any dependency or requirement relating to any one or combination of components illustrated in the exemplary computing system environment 100.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 6 with the following:

The system memory 130 includes computer storage media in the form of volatile and/or nonvolatile memory such as read only memory (ROM) 131 and random access memory (RAM) 132. A basic input/output system 133 (BIOS), containing the basic routines that help to transfer information between elements within computer 110, such as during start-up, is typically stored in ROM 131. RAM 132 typically contains data and/or program modules that are immediately accessible to and/or presently being operated on by processing unit 120. By way of example, and not limitation, FIG. 1 illustrates operating system 134, application programs 135, other program modules 136, and program data 137.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 11 with the following:

FIG. 5A is a flow diagram illustrating one embodiment in which manufacturers (such as manufacturer 202) generate and publish an RFQ template for response by suppliers 206 and 208. FIG. 5B is one illustrative embodiment (which is exemplary only) of an RFQ template 312 generated by manufacturer 202.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 18 with the following:

RFQ reply engine 228 is configured to intermittently access index 231 through network 224. When the index 231 is accessed, engine 228 searches the index for RFQ templates which are published, and to which supplier 206 wishes to reply. This is indicated by block 330 shown in FIG. 6. The search of index 231 can be conducted through engine 232, or through any other suitable searching techniques. In one embodiment, the index 231 is arranged hierarchically, or categorically, to enable more precise and efficient searching to be performed by supplier 206.